

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP**

University of California, Berkeley
Thursday, June 5th to Sunday, June 8th, 2014

SPRING 2014 WORKSHOP AGENDA

**Immigrants and their Homeland Connections:
Transnationalism in Historical Perspective**

Research Director: Nancy L. Green [nlg@ehess.fr]
Research Director: Roger Waldinger [waldinge@Soc.ucla.edu]

This is the first of two workshops designed to help students prepare cogent and fundable dissertation proposals in their chosen field. The two goals of the first workshop are 1) to map the research field with respect to contributing disciplines, methods, sources, and area knowledge; and 2) to help prepare fellows for their pre-dissertation summer research. (The goal of the second workshop will be to focus on the mechanics and methods of writing a dissertation proposal).

“Transnationalism” has been developed as a concept denoting the overlap between receiving and sending societies. While interest in the phenomenon has triggered an outpouring of scholarship across the social sciences, the perspective has also generated great controversy, particularly with regard to its “newness.” Going beyond a conventional opposition between “now” and “then,” we seek to understand the many flows triggered or continuing during the years in-between. In both taking into account a broad set of migrations and directing attention to the *longue durée*, our workshop aims to provoke questions that go beyond attention to the contemporary period and ask questions relating to change over time.

WORKSHOP READINGS AND RESOURCES

Readings and other resources will be placed on the section of the DPDF online workspace devoted to this field. Students will receive separate detailed instructions about the access and use of the DPDF digital platform.

The following four texts should be read *before* the workshop:

Nina Glick Schiller, Linda Basch and Cristina Szanton Blanc, “From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration,” *Anthropological Quarterly*, 68:1 (Jan. 1995): 48-63.

Nancy L. Green, “The Comparative Method and Poststructural Structuralism – New Perspectives for Migration Studies,” *Journal of American Ethnic Studies* 13:4 (Summer 1994): 3-22.

Andreas Wimmer and Nina Glick Schiller, “Methodological Nationalism, the Social Sciences, and the Study of Migration: An Essay in Historical Epistemology,” *International Migration Review* 37:3 (October 2003): 576-610.

Roger Waldinger, selected pages from *The Cross-border Connection: Immigrants, Emigrants, and their Homelands* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, forthcoming): Chapter 2 (“Beyond transnationalism”) and Chapter 9 (Conclusion: “Foreign detachment”)

A *Bibliography* will be posted on the DPDF website for our group.

WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be uploaded on the DPDF online workspace unless otherwise noted:

- **Deadline, May 26:** Draft a 3-to-5 page description of your dissertation project, specifying a brief literature review, research plans or design, and potential contributions of your project to a disciplinary and interdisciplinary audience. Emphasis will be on revising and fine-tuning sustainable research strategies for summer research.
- **Deadline, June 2:** Read the uploaded articles listed above and write a one-page statement on how you think your own project might be in conversation with these works; feel free to reference other works of particular relevance to your project.
- **Deadline, June 5:** Read all of your colleagues’ dissertation project descriptions and prepare one paragraph of feedback or questions for each, to be discussed at the workshop. *After* the discussion of each project during the workshop, these paragraphs should be uploaded so that each student will have a composite record of the other students’ comments.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 5th

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: **Workshop Session #1: Introductions and Mapping the Field**

The goal of this session is to begin to map the research fields through a discussion of the kinds of research questions/hypotheses that have already been asked and from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. The Research Directors will begin by introducing themselves and their current research interests. The students will then introduce themselves and indicate what they hope to get out of the workshop. The Research Directors will then present an interactive view of transnationalism and the field of migration studies particularly with regard to the perspectives of sociology, history, and anthropology. The aim is to encourage thinking in a shared language about the field.

2 to 5 p.m.: **Workshop Session #2: Continuing to Map the Field**

This session will focus on a group discussion of the four readings that have been assigned, placing them in their temporal and disciplinary contexts. Each student should have read the articles ahead of time and written a one-page précis on how the articles are relevant to their own project. We will also comment briefly on the Bibliography that will be on the DPDF website.

Friday, June 6th

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Workshop Session #3: Justifying Sites, Time Periods and Methods; Student Project Critiques

We will proceed, for the next four sessions by examining each student's proposal collectively, with three goals in mind: the way in which the project fits into overarching themes in the field; discussing sources and methods – given each student's own disciplinary grounding, we can discuss the problems, promise, uses and limits of interdisciplinary methods; constructive criticism. The goal in discussing each case is to help each of you strengthen your arguments concerning your choice of area(s) on which to focus, the relevance of your methods, on-site research approaches, etc. The assumption is that questions asked of one project can be relevant to all and stimulate new questions for each project.

Each session will be divided into three one-hour sessions, discussing one project per hour. Each project will be assigned for comment to a student from another discipline, who will begin the session; we will then go around the table for everyone to comment on the project: its geographic and temporal scope; its discipline, methods, and sources. How convincing is the overall argument? The Research Directors will summarize and stimulate further discussion. The floor will then be turned over to the project's author to respond to the comments. Remember, criticism is meant to be *constructive*.

| | <u>Proposal</u> | <u>Commentator</u> |
|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 9-10 a.m. | Halpern (History) | Alyanak (Anthropology) |
| 10-11 a.m. | Black (History) | Menchaca (Anthropology) |
| 11-12 a.m. | Warren (Sociology) | Van Wyck (History) |

1 to 2 p.m.: Research Directors meet with Halpern, Black, and Warren individually (20 minutes each)

2 to 5 p.m.: Workshop Session #4: Justifying Sites, Time Periods and Methods; Student Project Critiques

| | <u>Proposal</u> | <u>Commentator</u> |
|----------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2-3 p.m. | Newman (History) | Bolton (Anthropology) |
| 3-4 p.m. | Hu (Religious Studies) | Black (History) |
| 4-5 p.m. | Van Wyck (History) | Laniyonu (Political Science) |

5 to 6 p.m.: Research Directors meet with Newman, Hu, and Van Wyck individually (20 minutes each)

Saturday, June 7th

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Workshop Session #5: Justifying Sites, Time Periods and Methods; Student Project Critiques

| | <u>Proposal</u> | <u>Commentator</u> |
|------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9-10 a.m. | Alyanak (Anthropology) | Halpern (History) |
| 10-11 a.m. | Shibata (Sociology) | Mercado-Montero (Latin America) |
| 11-12 a.m. | Laniyonu (Political Science) | Warren (Sociology) |

2 to 5 p.m.: Workshop Session #6: Justifying Sites, Time Periods and Methods; Student Project Critiques

| | <u>Proposal</u> | <u>Commentator</u> |
|----------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2-3 p.m. | Menchaca (Anthropology) | Newman (History) |
| 3-4 p.m. | Bolton (Anthropology) | Shibata (Sociology) |
| 4-5 p.m. | Mercado-Montero (Latin America) | Hu (Religious Studies) |

5 to 6 p.m.: Research Directors meet with Alyanak, Shibata, Laniyonu individually (20 minutes each)

Sunday, June 8th

8 to 9 a.m.: Research Directors meet with Menchaca, Bolton, Mercado-Montero individually (20 minutes each)

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Workshop Session #7: Preparing for Summer Research and the Fall Workshop

The last session will be divided into two parts. For the first 1-1/2 hours, everyone should briefly present their summer plans, focusing on “what do I already know” vs. “what do I still need to find out” and discussing any anticipated problems with regard to sources: working in the archives, interview techniques; do you anticipate any particular problems with access, etc.? And what if your findings result in a shift of focus?

The second half of the session will be devoted to discussing summer assignments, exchanging information on keeping in touch while in the field: pairing of students for mutual support. Finally, we will discuss preliminary plans for the Fall workshop.

**SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL
DISSERTATION PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP
Hyatt Arlington, Arlington, Virginia
Wednesday, September 17th to Sunday, September 21st, 2014
FALL 2014 WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**Immigrants and their Homeland Connections:
Transnationalism in Historical Perspective**

Research Director: Nancy L. Green [nlg@ehess.fr]

Research Director: Roger Waldinger [waldinge@soc.ucla.edu]

This is the second of two annual DPDF workshops designed to help graduate student fellows prepare cogent and fundable dissertation proposals in their chosen field. The two goals of the second workshop are 1) to help fellows synthesize their summer research; and 2) to develop revised drafts of dissertation proposals, either for committee or funding purposes. The workshop challenges fellows to consider their summer research and proposal development within the context of contributions to their research fields. In this, the goals of the fall workshop are closely related to the project of mapping a research field that began during the spring workshop.

Fellows will come out of the second workshop with clear courses of action to revise drafts into intellectually mature dissertation proposals, as well as supportive networks of mentors and cohorts of new scholars within the research field.

WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments should be uploaded on the DPDF online workspace unless otherwise noted:

Deadline, September 8: Proposal draft, ten pages, double-spaced.

Your proposals should:

1. Clearly articulate your research question (that's perhaps obvious)
2. Situate your research within the scholarly literature
3. Elaborate any theoretical arguments clearly
4. Provide a clear strategy about how the project will be carried out.

Please do not think of the proposal as an update of the document that we read and discussed in June. Rather, this new document should really be thought of as the first draft of what will eventually be your formal proposal. The aim is to start working toward the most convincing proposal/grant application format now; there's no time like the present to start doing that.

Deadline, September 15:

- Read everyone's two intermediary reports that were due July 1st and August 1st and are on the website.
- Read everyone else's proposal and compile brief written comments on each in preparation for workshop discussions. You will upload your written comments AFTER the workshop.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 17th

6 p.m.: **Registration and welcome reception**
Workshop materials will be distributed at registration.
Dinner on your own

Thursday, September 18th

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: **Workshop Session #1: Summer Research - Successes and Challenges**

Everyone should prepare a short introductory statement describing the highlights of what they did this summer. This should include answers to the following questions: What went well? What went poorly? Any surprises? Over all, did what you find mesh with what you originally expected to find? Any major change of direction? Any particular methodological issues? In this and the following sessions, we will want to include discussions about interviewing/observation techniques as well as archival finds and frustrations.

2 to 5 p.m.: **Plenary Session on Proposal Writing and Applying for Dissertation Research Funding**

All fellows from the research fields at this workshop will attend this session. In this session, DPDF staff, in conjunction with some of the research directors, will discuss the genre of proposal writing for research funding. Topics to be discussed will include:
writing for disciplinary v. interdisciplinary audiences • finding an appropriate tone and style • ways to write about your pre-dissertation research as preparation for long-term research • best practices for preparing a research budget • pulling back the curtain on general review processes.

In the second part of the plenary, students will break out into small groups to role play a review committee and discuss the merits of two short proposals that have been assigned to read prior to the workshop. Following the exercise, students will reconvene and debrief.

Friday, September 19th

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: **Workshop Session #2: Reviewing Proposals**

As in the Spring, we will discuss each proposal separately. Each session will therefore be divided into four 40-minute time slots. Each project will be assigned for comment to a student from another discipline. We have basically switched the order from the Spring session from last to first and somewhat randomly assigned new discussants, given that we feel that everyone had interesting things to say about the other proposals. Comments should be succinct and no longer than 10 minutes maximum; the other 30 minutes will then be given over to a group discussion of that proposal. Remember, criticism is meant to be *constructive*.

| | <u>Proposal</u> | <u>Commentator</u> |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 9:05-9:45 | Mercado-Montero (Latin America) | Alyanak (Anthropology) |

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 9:45-10:25 | Bolton (Anthropology) | Hu (Religious Studies) |
| 10:25-10:35 | Coffee break | |
| 10:35-11:15 | Menchaca (Anthropology) | Shibata (Sociology) |
| 11:15-11:55 | Laniyonu (Political Science) | Newman (History) |

12 to 1 p.m.: Individual Meetings

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 12:00-12:30 | Individual meeting with the Research Directors: Mercado-Montero |
| 12:30-1:00 | Individual meeting with the Research Directors: Bolton |

2 to 5 p.m.: Workshop Session #3: Reviewing Proposals

| | <u>Proposal</u> | <u>Commentator</u> |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2:05-2:45 | Shibata (Sociology) | Halpern (History) |
| 2:45-3:25 | Alyanak (Anthropology) | Mercado-Montero (Latin America) |
| 3:25-3:35 | Coffee break | |
| 3:35-4:15 | Van Wyck (History) | Warren (Sociology) |
| 4:15-4:55 | Hu (Religious Studies) | Van Wyck (History) |

5 to 7 p.m.: Individual Meetings

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 5:00-5:30 | Individual meeting with the Research Directors: Menchaca |
| 5:30-6:00 | Individual meeting with the Research Directors: Laniyonu |
| 6:00-6:30 | Individual meeting with the Research Directors: Shibata |
| 6:30-7:00 | Individual meeting with the Research Directors: Alyanak |

Saturday, September 20th

| | |
|------------|--|
| 8:00- 8:30 | <i>Individual meetings</i> with the Research Directors: Van Wyck |
| 8:30-9:00 | <i>Individual meetings</i> with the Research Directors: Hu |

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Workshop Session #4: Reviewing Proposals

| | <u>Proposal</u> | <u>Commentator</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 9:05-9:45 | Newman (History) | Bolton (Anthropology) |
| 9:45-10:25 | Warren (Sociology) | Black (History) |
| 10:25-10:35 | Coffee break | |
| 10:35-11:15 | Black (History) | Laniyonu (Political Science) |
| 11:15-11:55 | Halpern (History) | Menchaca (Anthropology) |

2 to 4 p.m.: Workshop Session #5: Debriefing Proposal Reviews

In this session we will discuss common issues regarding methodology, writing strategies – logic! persuasiveness, putting your best foot forward, arguing for originality, etc. We will break after two hours and use the remaining time to continue our one-on-one discussions and to give you time to start on a short but crucial writing assignment for the evening:

Rewrite the beginning paragraph of your proposal.

You can then upload these short texts to the DPDF website, and we will read and discuss them together in class Sunday morning.

4-4:15 pm Coffee break

4:15 to 6:15 p.m.: Individual Meetings

4:15-4:45 Individual meeting with the Research Directors: Warren
4:45-5:15 Individual meeting with the Research Directors: Newman
5:15-5:45 Individual meeting with the Research Directors: Halpern
5:45-6:30 Individual meetings with the Research Directors: Black

Sunday, September 21st

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Workshop Session #6:

Discussion of First Paragraphs and Final Wrap-up; Next Steps

9:00-11:00 For the first two hours of this session, we will discuss the first paragraph of everyone's proposal in the order of the workshop presentations above. We will allot approximately ten minutes per paragraph (given time constraints).

11:00-11:10 Coffee break

11:10-12:00: Final jam session to discuss how we can continue the dialogue after the program ends.

12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Farewell lunch at hotel